

## THE SONOMA COUNTY GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (GRIP)

The County of Sonoma (County) proposes to lead an effort to prepare the Sonoma County Greenhouse Gas Reduction Implementation Program (GRIP), a County-Wide Climate Action Plan. The GRIP will be a crucial demonstration of the “next step” for local and regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enact widespread sustainable community strategies consistent with state policy. Participants in this proposal include all nine cities and the County PRMD, the Sonoma Regional Climate Protection Authority (RPCA), the Sonoma County Transportation Authority (SCTA), the Climate Protection Campaign (501c3), Sonoma State University’s Center for Sustainable Communities (CSC), the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District (SCAPOSD), and the North Bay Climate Adaptation Initiative (NBCAI).

Since 2002, Sonoma County has been a national leader in its dedication to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions at the community scale. The Climate Protection Campaign laid the groundwork for local climate action planning with the Sonoma County Community Climate Action Plan (CCAP) in 2008. Since the CCAP’s completion, the field of climate action planning has changed significantly with the release of the AB 32 Scoping Plan, SB 375 targets, and CEQA guidelines for greenhouse gas emissions. As a result, planners at the County and nine member cities have identified a need to bring the sub-regional policies in the CCAP down to a local level for integration into general plans and municipal codes, and to include an environmental review process (to be funded outside of this grant application) to ensure the GRIP will serve as a tiering document for subsequent projects under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The GRIP will be the County’s overarching program for implementing the CCAP, integrating it into local plans, codes, and implementation measures – and tracking the success of policies and strategies. The County believes that this process of integration and implementation is the next step in climate action planning — truly getting a “GRIP” on climate change.

The Sonoma County GRIP could not come at a better time. The development of the Countywide Comprehensive Transportation Plan and Bay Area Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy, the adoption of revised CEQA Guidelines pertaining to GHG Reduction Strategies, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) CEQA Guidelines, the concurrent development of the Santa Rosa Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Strategy, implementation of the adopted Sonoma County General Plan policy to develop a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Program, use of Sonoma County EECBG funds for code revisions to reduce energy use, will provide opportunities for collaboration between agencies and allow local agencies to leverage outside funds and in-kind services. The GRIP will have the following main components:

1. **GRIP Initiatives** – A strategy that builds upon the CCAP to comply with current environmental regulatory guidelines and institutionalize the plan and related actions for local use.
2. **GRIP Integration** – A model implementation code and best practices book for integration into local general plans, zoning and building codes, and to provide examples for jurisdictions throughout the state.
3. **GRIP Implementation** – A mechanism to monitor implementation, sustainability indicators, and GHG.

The unique feature of this program is that it will provide a framework for demonstrating consistency and collaboration at all levels: state, regional, county, subregional, and local. The GRIP will provide an inter-jurisdictional strategy to focus limited fiscal resources to serve the greatest population, with the primary goal of creating more livable, sustainable, healthy, and “complete” communities. The GRIP will be used as a component of a CEQA compliant Climate Action Plan consistent with State CEQA Guidelines section 15183.5. This proposal aligns with the intent of Focus Area #3 by collaborating on a subregional planning effort with multiple partners that implements the goals of SB 732, Assembly Bill 32, Senate Bill 375, and the regional transportation and blueprint plans being developed by MTC and ABAG. County-Wide Climate Action Plans are eligible proposals under Focus Area #3. The proposal also has co-benefits that address the needs of targeted EDC areas within the County.